

HON'BLE MR. V. O. MARKOS: (a) Yes.

(b) 580 Tons.

(c)	Date.	Name of party.	Quantity
1.	1-5-1948 30-8-1948	M/S. M. Kasim Pillai & Sons, Vallakkadavu, Trivan- drum.	43 3/4 tons of Tapioca chips.
2.	30-4-1948	Mr. Krishna Panikker, Kattakada, Neduman- gad.	391 tons and 860 lbs. tapioca starch.
3.	15-4-1948	Mr. M. S. Abdul Kadir, Chalai, Trivandrum.	145 tons of tapioca starch.

Construction of Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway.

* 445. MR. K. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in finalising the scheme for the construction of Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway; and

(b) whether Government has made any effort to contact the Central Government to expedite same, and if so, with what result?

HON'BLE MR. A. J. JOHN: (a) No estimate has been prepared for a railway connecting Kottarakara with Alwaye. One has however been prepared for connecting Quilon with Ernakulam at an estimated cost of I. Rs. 1,84,76,407 in the year 1933. The cost will be much higher now.

(b) With regard to Quilon-Ernakulam Railway, the Government of India has been addressed.

Survey of lands for cultivation.

* 446. MR. K. S. JOSEPH (Thiruvella VI—General): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Surveyors have been specially employed to survey the lands that have been released for cultivation this year from the Forest areas; and

(b) whether Government have instructed the Forest Department to mark out any land they intended to release next year, as early as possible this year; and to see that tree growth is cut and removed before Vrischigam next year?

HON'BLE MR. V. O. MARKOSE: (a) Yes.

(b) The question of releasing further lands is under consideration.

Distillery in Dry Areas.

* 447. MR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHA NADAR (Kalkulam II—Hindu Nadar): Will the Hon'ble Minister for prohibition be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for having the Distillery at Nagercoil where prohibition is in force;

(b) whether Government have taken any step to shift the above mentioned institution from there; if not why?

HON'BLE MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : (a) The Distillery at Nagercoil was established long before prohibition was introduced in the State and it is continuing there for the manufacture of spirits, arrack and Indian made foreign liquors for supply to the non-prohibition areas. Section 5 of the Prohibition Act contains the necessary provision for the continuance of the Distillery at Nagercoil which is in prohibition area.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Guns.

*448. MR. EAPEN ARAKKAL : Will the Hon'ble Minister for Police be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend returning the ordinary muzzle-loading guns deposited in Police Stations to their licensed owners : and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative when and under what conditions will these guns be returned to their owners ?

HON'BLE MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : (a) and (b) Guns are being returned to owners whose character and antecedents are good and who are not likely to take part in subversive activities. The District Magistrates have the necessary instructions to return the guns deposited by private persons if they deserve to possess the gun for their *bona fide* personal use.

Extension of electricity.

*449. MR. EAPEN ARAKKAL : Will the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity be pleased to state :

(a) has any representation been received for the extension of electricity to Arathungal in Shertallai taluk : and

(b) has the line been extended from Shertallai to a place called Thysseril along the Shertallai Arathungal road ?

HON'BLE MR. K. R. ELANKATH : (a) No.

(b) No.

Rent Control.

*450. MR. EAPEN ARAKKAL : Will the Hon'ble Minister for Rent Control be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the unavoidable delay caused in the disposal of B. R. C. petitions on account of heavy pressure of normal work attached to the Court of Division First Class Magistrate ?

HON'BLE MR. A. J. JOHN : Government are not aware.

Transfer of Medical Officers, Nurses and other employees.

*451. MR. MAJEED MAR'KAR (Kunnathunad I—Muslim) : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health be pleased to state whether any definite system is being followed by the Medical Department with regard to transfer of medical officers, nurses and other employees and if so whether this system is strictly followed in all instances ?

HON'BLE MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : Transfers of the members of the staff in all cases are effected according to exigencies of service.